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Business Week

26th June 05 – 3rd July 05

AATCC launches design competition for students

01 July 2005

The American Association of Textile Chemists and Colourists (AATCC) is to run its first engineering design competition, developed by its materials interest group. The aim of the competition is the promotion of innovative product development from an engineering design perspective.

The theme of the competition is “Design of Engineered Fibrous Structures,” and the contest has been divided into three areas: Medical/Biomedical Fibrous Structures; Smart/Electronic Fibrous Structures; and Protective Fibrous Structures.

Submissions are invited from graduate and undergraduate students and entries will be evaluated on concept originality, the use of engineering design elements, technical feasibility of the concept, the quality and clarity of supporting documentation, technical rationale for the assembly materials list, the efficacy of proposed commercial process sequence, and the viability of economic cost analysis.

Entries must be submitted by December 1, 2005. Ten finalists in each category will be asked to submit electronic and physical poster boards for final judging. Winning entries will be awarded $1,000 for first place and $500 for second place, in each area.

Headquartered in North Carolina, U.S.A., AATCC offers education, technology transfer, and test method development for the textile design, materials, and wet processing industries.

Retiring directors honoured by SATRA

01 July 2005

Research and testing organisation SATRA has honoured three non–executive directors Dudley Cheesman, John Pittard, Robert Perkins who have now retired.

Dudley Cheesman joined the SATRA board during its earliest days in 1990 when nominated by his senior management at Clarks/K Shoes. He has chaired the SATRA technical committee, was deputy chairman of the board from 1994 to 2000 and a trustee of SATRA’s pension fund. "We owe Dudley an immense amount of gratitude for his outstanding voluntary service," said SATRA chairman Iain Kennedy. Having also retired from business life, Dudley now plans to devote much of his time to two wildlife charities in the West Country.

John Pittard joined the board in 1993 as group managing director of Pittard's but now feels it is time to step down and "make way for younger blood."

"As a non-executive director at SATRA it has been a valuable experience to sit on the other side of the boardroom table — and I hope I have been able to contribute in some way to the successful decision-making processes of the board."

Robert Perkins, who had been involved with footwear manufacture at Clarks/K Shoes, was with the Pentland group when he joined SATRA in 2000. He was a driving force on SATRA’s technical committee and helped pioneer the ‘just in time production’ systems for the footwear industry.

He has now stepped down to devote more time to developing his own brand resourcing company.

SATRA chairman Iain Kennedy described Robert as a man "never afraid to speak his mind and with strong views on many subjects." These qualities, he felt, were very helpful when the SATRA board had been faced with difficult decisions.

FESI relaunches website

01 July 2005

The Brussels-based Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry (FESI), the European platform representing the interests of 1,800 European sporting goods manufacturers through 10 National Sporting Goods Industry federations and affiliated companies launched a new updated website www.fesi-sport.org.

A substantial number of improvements have been made to the website including an increased number of sections where members are able to exchange confidential information within their specially tailored private member area.

Indra Technology launches new Escape software

01 July 2005

US provider of order entry and order management business solutions for the apparel, footwear, sporting goods, and action sports industries, Indra Technology Inc., has released Version 4.3 of its Escape software. One new feature is a Custom Catalogue feature which allows the user to select desired items and place them together in a customised product assortment, complete with colour pictures of the items. This new feature is said to enable companies to present a more effective and personalised product line to its customers.

Escape Sales Force Automation Software consists of a suite of fully integrated components to automate manufacturers' ordering channels into their existing back office system. By streamlining the order entry process, it is said to eliminate errors, increase customer satisfaction, and ultimately save money through decreased order processing costs and reduced inventory.

Companies such as VF Corporation, Perry Ellis International; Spalding Sports Worldwide Inc., and Top Flite Golf Company already use Indra's system.

Ispo attracts more international exhibitors

01 July 2005

ispo Summer will open on Sunday July 3 at the Munich Trade Fair Centre, Germany and it looks set to be another success. The event has attracted exhibitors from 46 countries, an increase over the 40 that attended in 2004.

This means that 77% of the total 1,049 exhibitors will now be international.
The show will run from Sunday July 3 to Tuesday, July 5, 2005 and will also include a wide range of seminars and presentations on themes such as trend forecasts for 2007 and optimising supply chains.

McRae Industries acquires assets from Texas Boot

01 July 2005

McRae Industries, Inc. has completed its acquisition of certain assets from Texas Boot, Inc.

The assets purchased under the agreement include Texas Boot's trademarks Laredo, J. Chisolm, Code West and Performair. McRae has also agreed to accept its outstanding accounts receivable and certain inventory.

Texas Boot has been operating as a debtor-in-possession in a case under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. McRae acquired the company at auction for a total purchase price of approximately $2.16 million.

The assets will be used by McRae's subsidiary, Dan Post Boot Company, which markets and distributes primarily western footwear for men, women and children

under the Dan Post, Dingo and American West brand names.

McRae Industries is involved in the manufacture and sales of bar code reading and related printing devices; manufacture and sales of military combat boots, western and work boots and selling, leasing and servicing office equipment.

Aokang shoe group increases exports

01 July 2005

Aokang shoe group has recently reported that it expects exports to account for 20% of the company's total sales in 2005. This equates to a 40% increase in exports. CEO of Aokang, Mr. Wang Zhen Tao, made the forecast at a Geox press conference in Shanghai, stating that Aokang's forward orders to September have now reached over 300,000 pairs of shoes for Geox alone.

"The cooperation with Geox and increasing orders from other famous foreign brands is pushing Aokang," said a representative of Aokang.

Though June and July are traditionally the quietest production months for the majority of Wenzhou shoe-making factories, all of Aokang's production lines are still running. The company has also announced that it will recruit another 1,000 workers at its new shoe production centre which opened in October 2004 and specialises in producing foreign brands.

Mr. Wang said, "The increment of foreign orders exceeded the estimation and the company has to enlarge production capacity to fulfil the orders received."

Lance Armstrong and Nike launch apparel and footwear collection

01 July 2005

Cyclist Lance Armstrong, who was diagnosed with cancer in 1996, has teamed up with Nike to launch a new line of apparel, the 10//2 Collection, which will help to raise more funds for the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

The 10//2 Collection from Nike offers a line of lifestyle and performance apparel, offering a variety of high performance technical cycling wear and lifestyle products. Yellow plays an important role in the 10//2 Collection, reflecting the yellow jersey Armstrong won a record six times in the Tour de France, and the colour that has come to stand for the bands that were sold to raise funds for cancer patients around the world through his foundation. Nike has integrated yellow throughout the line by incorporating a yellow band on each product.

The Lance Armstrong Foundation will receive $1 for each 10//2 Collection item sold.

EDANA elects new chairman

30 June 2005

At its Annual General Meeting held in Budapest on June 2, 2005, EDANA (the international association representing nonwovens and related industries) elected Knud Waede Hansen, managing director, Fibertex as chairman of EDANA for a one-year term of office, replacing Rolf Altdorf, Group vice president EMEA, PGI Nonwovens, whose second one-year mandate ended on June 30.

Luc Maes, chairman, Libeltex Group and Paul Eevers, director beverages, supply management, Unilever Europe Foods were re-elected as vice-chairman and treasurer respectively.

EDANA also welcomed two newcomers to the board - Karl-Michael Schumann, director corporate R&D Europe and Nonwovens Platform Technologies and Michael Staton, chief executive of Nice-Pak International. Schumann and Staton replace Robert Dunn, managing director, Don & Low Ltd and Boudewijn Lindner, vice president Suominen, managing director, Codi International B.V.

With over 190 member companies in 26 countries, EDANA represents and promotes the common interests of nonwovens and absorbent hygiene product industries and

their suppliers in Europe, Middle East and Africa.

371 exhibitors registered for Tissu Premier

30 June 2005

Tissu Premier is continuing to expand. 371 exhibitors showing 390 collections have already signed up for the September 2005 session. 69% are European, including 35% French, 17% from other European and Mediterranean countries and 14% from Asia and Russia. The best represented sectors will be knitted fabrics, prints, colour wovens and sportswear. 1,394 visitors have already pre-registered for the show, 935 more than at the same time for the September 2004 event.

Key features in September 2005 will be a defined fashion trail, a larger offering in the services sector, plus ‘sport meets innovation meets design’ in the young designers’ exhibition – all with a British flavour. At this session, the spotlight is on the UK and one of its fashion gurus, London-based designer Zandra Rhodes.

Tissu Premier will take place September 7-8, 2005 in Lille, France.

Eschler develops new knits for outdoor wear

30 June 2005

Swiss-based Christian Eschler AG has developed new fabrics for outdoor wear. It has introduced softshell laminates under the brand name E-star 2000 and E-star H2, as well as Isowind, a water/windproof three-layer laminate.

The company has also added Schoeller’s 3XDRY finish to several of its most popular circular knit fabrics.

Ionic silver complex receives US patent

30 June 2005

Invision International Health Solutions, Inc., a developer in the field of ionic silver use as an antimicrobial in humans, has received a US Patent on its "ionic silver complex" technology.

The patented technology has been designed to utilise naturally occurring substances, such as citrate, to achieve optimal delivery and release of silver ions in the human body, in an efficient and entirely safe manner.

"This patented technology represents a quantum leap beyond predecessor silver ion technologies, including those that utilize electrolysis for manufacturing, such as colloidal silver," says Jay Newman, the company's president and CEO. "In addition, this composition-of-matter patent provides far more meaningful protection than the product-by-process patents that have been issued on other silver products.

President of Federcalzature to visit China

30 June 2005

President of Federcalzature and CEDDEC, the European Confederation of Shoe Retail Trade Associations, Massimo Donda, is to visit China from July 1-5. He will be accompanied by the president of the Federcalzature Young Group, Andrea Colzani. The trip is being viewed as being of great importance for Sino-EU relations, in regard to the current situation concerning Chinese footwear imports into Europe.

The visit will give Mr Donda an opportunity to attend the Shoe China fair and to hold important meetings with Chinese officials, including the Chinese Economy Minister, Bo Xilai.

The president will also give a presentation “the EU Footwear Market Overview” during the China Shoes Forum Congress on July 3.

FCC Fornecedora hits the one billion mark

30 June 2005

ISO 9001-certified since 1999, FCC Fornecedora, of Novo Hamburgo, Brazil has

supplied the leather and shoe industry with a varied range of products for 36 years and is a leading TR supplier in Brazil. The company, which has produced 200,000 tons of the compound, has now reached the important milestone of having its TR used in the manufacturing of over one billion pairs of shoes.

TR combines the properties of rubber with the ease of transformation of plastics and replaces rubber and other thermoplastics in many injection applications.

Manchester Especialidades Químicas creates leather division

30 June 2005

Manchester Especialidades Químicas, a specialty chemical producer that has worked in the ceramic, textile, paint and varnish, hygiene and cleaning, effluent and surface treatment sectors for over 20 years has created a Leather Division. Adolfo Antonio Klein, a leather technician and environmental consultant, has been appointed head of the commercial leather department at the new division, whilst leather chemist Luís Carlos Schneider will head the technical department.

The company's headquarters are located in Criciúma, Santa Catarina, just 200 kilometres south of Florianópolis, the state capital. It has two branches, one in Itatiba and the other in Puebla, Mexico.

Phoenix Footwear completes acquisition of Chambers Belt Company

30 June 2005

US designer and marketer of men's and women's dress and casual footwear, outdoor sportswear and travel apparel Phoenix Footwear Group, Inc. has completed its acquisition of the Chambers Belt Company, a manufacturer of men's and women's belts and accessories.

Founded in 1947 and headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, Chambers manufactures and distributes men's and women's belts and accessories, spanning traditional and western styles as well as a growing children's line. The company posted full-year 2004 revenues of $40 million. Chambers' products are sold in retail outlets such as Wal-Mart, Kmart, Nordstrom, Sheplers and Pacific Sunwear.

James R. Riedman, chairman of Phoenix Footwear, commented: "We welcome Charlie Stewart, Kelly Green, Dave Matheson and the entire Chambers team to Phoenix Footwear. Chambers is a well-run company with a commitment to profitable growth and a proven track record in the retail industry spanning close to six decades."

Phoenix brands include the Trotters, SoftWalk, Strol, H.S. Trask, and Altama footwear lines, and the Chambers and Royal Robbins lines.

2005 PGA Fall Expo attracts 300 exhibitors

29 June 2005

Golf equipment manufacturers such as Ben Hogan, Callaway Golf, Nike Golf, Top-Flite, Wilson Golf and Yonex are among more than 300 exhibitors returning to the 2005 PGA Fall Expo, which will be held September 28-29, in Las Vegas. The apparel category has also attracted well-known brands such as Antigua, Bette & Court, Dockers Tour, Jack Nicklaus Sportswear and Sport-Haley topping amongst those exhibiting.

"We have worked closely with The PGA of America and our exhibiting companies to provide a fall marketplace that delivers multiple points of value and we are thrilled with the renewed participation by leading golf companies," said PGA Golf Exhibitions vice president and show manager Ed Several.

In addition to the exhibition, an education conference will be held on September 28-29 which will offer more than 40 diverse seminars including advanced retailing, growing the game, marketing and promotions, merchandising, personnel &

service and retailing basics. Education conference presenters will include leading golf organisations and nationally recognised golf publications.

Huntsman and Al-Zamil to build ethyleneamines plant

29 June 2005

US-based manufacturer and marketer of commodity and differentiated chemicals, Huntsman Corporation and the Al-Zamil Group of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia have signed a memorandum of understanding to form a joint venture to build a world-scale ethyleneamines manufacturing facility in Jubail Industrial City, Saudi Arabia.

The 30,000 metric ton plant will produce ethylenediamine (EDA), diethylenetriamine (DETA), triethylenetetramine (TETA) and higher molecular weight versions such as TEPA, E-100, AEP and piperazine. The products serve as specialty intermediates for a variety of end uses including epoxy curing agents, bonding agents and lube-oil additives for gasoline and diesel engines. The companies anticipate the plant being on line in 2008.

Huntsman and Al-Zamil Group will have equal ownership in the facility. The joint venture will license Huntsman's proprietary technology. Huntsman will serve as the exclusive sales and marketing arm for the joint venture and will provide technical service and product applications assistance.

The Al-Zamil Group of Companies and Huntsman also are partners in a maleic anhydride - butanediol manufacturing facility in Saudi Arabia. The GACIC joint venture produces precursors for Spandex woven fibres.

Halti focuses on Nordic fitness

29 June 2005

Finland-based producer of technical outdoor and casual clothing, Halti will present its new collection for summer collection 2006 at ispo in July. The range emphasises the Nordic Fitness Concept, especially in its womenswear.

This line has been specifically designed for active Nordic Fitness exercise, such as Nordic walking. Light technical windproof materials, functional details and knitting that transfers moisture are incorporated into the collection that offers products for all weather conditions. There are sets and soft shells - jackets for cooler weather as well as T-shirts, trousers and shorts for sunny days. Halti has also introduced matching accessories such as hats, gloves, socks and shoes.

Halti is also expanding its range of golf clothing. The new collection offers lighter golf clothing options than before and includes golf pants, shorts, skirt shorts and knitwear.

Hartmarx reports strong operating results

29 June 2005

US producer and marketer of menswear, casual and golf apparel, Hartmarx Corporation, has reported strong operating results for its second quarter and six months ended May 31, 2005. Second quarter revenues were $145.7 million compared with $142.4 million in 2004. Net earnings improved by 83% to $5.4 million compared with $3.0 million last year. For the six months, revenues increased 3.8% to $289.6 million from $279.0 million in 2004. Net earnings improved to $9.6 million over net earnings of $5.1 million in 2004.

Hartmarx brands include Hart Schaffner Marx, Hickey-Freeman, Palm Beach, Coppley, Cambridge, Keithmoor, Society Brand, Racquet Club, Naturalife, Pusser's of the West Indies, Royal, Brannoch, Riserva, Sansabelt, Exclusively Misook, Barrie Pace and Aura. In addition, the company has certain exclusive rights under licensing agreements to market selected products under a number of brands such as Austin Reed, Tommy Hilfiger, Kenneth Cole, Burberry men's tailored clothing, Ted Baker, Bobby Jones, Jack Nicklaus, Claiborne, and Pierre Cardin.

Candie's to change company name

29 June 2005

US-based footwear brand Candie's, Inc. has announced that effective July 1 it will change its corporate name to Iconix Brand Group, Inc. The name change represents the final step in transforming the company from an operating footwear and apparel company to a brand management business. Iconix owns three brands, Candie's, Bongo and Badgley Mischka and has licensed them in a broad variety of categories to retailers, wholesalers and distributors worldwide.

Neil Cole, chairman and CEO of Iconix, stated: "The word Iconix symbolises our goal of owning a strong and diversified portfolio of many leading brands."

Artecola introduces 'water-based 500 cleaner' for soles

29 June 2005

Artecola Group, of Campo Bom, Brazil has launched a new water-based cleaner for soles. It is said to be the only product of its kind produced in Latin America and offers all of the advantages of water-based and biodegradable products in terms of the impact they have on the environment and public health.

The product is being launched after intensive testing on sports shoe production lines for six months. It has been tested on PVC, EVA, TR and PU soles, among others. According to Luís Carlos Pasa, shoe adhesive application manager, "The 'Water-based 500 Cleaner' breaks with all traditional cleaning processes which use solvent-based products. Being water-based it does not evaporate as solvent-based products do which helps to eliminate substantial losses. It is recyclable because it does not dissolve the mould release agent residue present on the soles which usually renders cleaners unusable."

The 'Water-based 500 Cleaner' does not affect the substrate preventing damage to colour, shape or finish, and it offers higher productivity and eliminates fire hazards.

New brands to exhibit at Footwear UK

29 June 2005

Organisers of Footwear UK are optimistic about the forthcoming show in August, as the show will welcome the largest number of mainstream fashion footwear brands it has ever recorded. New exhibitors include Aerolsoles, Audley Green Label, Camel Active, Laceys Footwear, Naot, Enzo Polli, Umi, Terra Plana, Vivo, Rohan, Glass Footwear, Origa and The Healthy Back Bag Company alongside established prestige brands including Geox, Hotter, Hush Puppies, Lotus, Pod, Rieker, Rockport, Skechers, Josef Seibel, Romika, TIF Collections, Rohde, Padders, Wortmann and Sebago.

"We've got a really good show ahead…. We have a wider mix of brands on board so there's more for buyers to see," commented show director, David Wilkins.
The show will run in Hall 17 the NEC, Birmingham on August 7-9.

DuPont and State of Delaware establish partnership for Innovation Centre

29 June 2005

The Governor of Delaware, USA, Ruth Ann Minner and DuPont chairman and CEO Charles O. Holliday recently announced a partnership to set up an Experimental Station in Wilmington. The project will include an $80 million capital investment from the company, a donation of intellectual property to Delaware's Emerging Technology Centre; and a new biotechnology programme for Delaware high school students.

The five-year investment includes the creation of a state-of-the art DuPont Innovation Centre on the Experimental Station campus, as well as infrastructure improvements. The Innovation Centre will co-locate marketing and technical personnel to incubate new DuPont businesses.

In addition to the Innovation Centre, DuPont will make a donation of intellectual property to the Delaware Emerging Technology

Centre as part of the state's New Economy Initiative. DuPont will also collaborate with the state to conduct biotechnology seminars for high school students, providing six programmes per year.

Adidas forecasting record football sales

28 June 2005

German performance sporting goods producer, adidas, has announced that it is expecting to achieve record football sales next year, in large thanks to the World Cup that will take place in Germany.

"Having the world's biggest sporting event take place in our home market is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," stated Herbert Hainer, CEO. "Adidas is ready for the World Cup, and for 2006 we expect to once again achieve record sales in our football category."

Adidas will introduce the first World Cup related products in the second half of 2005. In 2006, football sales are expected to rise to more than €1 billion. In 2004, adidas' football sales grew by more than 20% to over € 900 million and the brand currently has a 35% share of the world's football market.

"We will use this event to lead in key markets and to dominate in the host market before, during and after the World Cup," added Erich Stamminger, executive board member.

Stephen Etheridge joins SATRA board

28 June 2005

Stephen Etheridge, group chief executive of Church and Co plc, has joined SATRA Technology Centre's board of directors. He was formally elected at SATRA's annual meeting on June 14, 2005.

Mr Etheridge joined the Church group in 1994 and was chief executive of J. Cheaney and Sons from 1995 to 2001 before taking up his current position at Northampton.

While acknowledging the shift of mass footwear production to the Far East, he is upbeat about the future of a slimmer, more focused UK industry. "Businesses have closed and jobs have been lost, but we are not looking at the rump of a dying industry. Instead I feel we now have a defendable core of manufacturers producing quality footwear for the higher end of the market which, on a global basis, will always remain in demand," he commented.

SATRA offers a wide range of services including product evaluation, technical and management consultation, computer systems and information, together with sales of test equipment.

Oakley to launch fire resistant motor sports apparel

28 June 2005

Oakley, Inc. plans to launch an exclusive line of highly fire-resistant clothing made with O-CarbonX, a proprietary blend of CarbonX, an invention of Chapman Innovations specifically engineered for motor sports.

"Building on the success of our footwear collaboration with Chapman…O-CarbonX fabric enables us to pursue the same superior protection, comfort, and performance in racing apparel," said Jim Jannard, founder and CEO of Oakley.

O-CarbonX is a proprietary blend of fibres developed by Chapman Innovations specifically for Oakley. The fabric offers protection against heat and flame yet can still be worn comfortably next to the skin. O-CarbonX flame-resistant material provides a persistent protective barrier when exposed to direct flame reaching temperatures in excess of 2,000°F for 30 seconds without shrinking, charring, or losing structural integrity.

Oakley's O-CarbonX protective motor sports apparel will be available in long and short-sleeve tops, bottoms, balaclavas, and high performance racing gloves.

Thousands strike in South Africa

28 June 2005

South African workers protested in Cape Town on Monday, June 27 against job losses in the country. It is believed that up to 80% of employees in certain sectors particularly in the textile and clothing industries stayed away from work as a result of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) calling for the strike.

Up to 30,000 workers took to the streets to call for an end to cheap imports and a change in governmental economic policy, which the union and its members believe to be the major causes for the current wave of job losses.

Enia Indústrias Químicas celebrates 80 years in business

28 June 2005

Enia Indústrias Químicas has celebrated its 80th anniversary. The company, based in Itupeva, Brazil, produces dyestuffs and optical bleaches for the textile, leather and paper industries. It was founded by the Falzoni family and was run by the family until 1983 when Nordeste Química S/A (Norquisa) became its partner, a situation that remained unchanged until 1988 when Norquisa became sole owner.

It operates its own Technology Centre with modern R&D facilities where products and processes are tested at laboratory scale, helping customers make the right purchase decisions.

Anatom launches Bite Orthosport footwear

27 June 2005

Footwear distributor Anatom has added a new brand, Bite Orthosport footwear, to its range, a sandal with an orthopaedic footbed.

The Bite range will be sold to specialist outdoor and sports footwear retailers, and certain stockists such as Lockwoods, George Fishers and Gorge Outdoors. The range includes watersports, casual and sports sandals for men and women.

Mammut introduces New Wave climbing harness line

27 June 2005

The climbing equipment manufacturer Mammut has developed the New Wave climbing harness line. The three models in the new range are New Wave, Lotus and Focus, each offering more security than previous designs. The plastic loops incorporated into the Hypalone skeleton are said to provide each harness with extra comfort and a simple appearance. Each model also has Y leg loops with an anatomic trapezoidal cut.

The 30mm slide block buckle is said to provide maximum security and easy handling. This system is always closed to avoid errors when putting it on. The service life of the product is prolonged by the patented protector and prevents the wearing-out of leg loops at the tie-in point.

Teva introduces new styles

27 June 2005

Performance footwear brand, Teva, has introduced a new look to its “Sun and Moon” summer 2005 collection, with a range of footwear designed for travellers and those who enjoy the outdoor lifestyle.

The Habit, available for both men and women, is a three-point beach-style thong which can be worn in and around the water. The enhanced arch support provides cushioning, allowing for long walks. There are four colours in the women’s range and two colours in the men’s. The Spun Poly, has been designed for long wear and is said to offer casual comfort. The design is available in both men’s and women’s styles and comes with a River Rubber outsole to provide superior grip.

The Kolina, for women, is an open sandal, designed using Teva’s Patented Universal

Strapping System. It is said to be soft, comfortable and suitable for all-round casual outdoor performance due to the Durapontex Eva topsole and lightweight tubular webbing.

Report on demand for products containing para-aramid and HPPE-fibres released

27 June 2005

Dublin-based Market research group Research and Markets has added a new report to its offering. Fibres for Technical Textiles: Para Aramids and High Performance Polyethylene documents the sharp rise in demand for these products.

According to the study, demand for products containing para-aramid and high performance polyethylene (HPPE) fibres is growing rapidly. Worldwide, growth in usage is estimated at around 10% per annum. In Asia it is growing by as much as 13% a year, and in China alone by 18% a year.

Ashworth launches new golf technical line

27 June 2005

Ashworth, Inc., a US designer of golf-inspired lifestyle sportswear has launched a new Spring 2006 line of AWS (Ashworth Weather Systems), a complete and updated collection of technical golf apparel that is said to work together to enhance the golf experience.

The range features a three-layer performance system engineered for golf performance to remove moisture from the skin, insulate the body and protect the golfer from the elements. The moisture-wicking Base-Tech first layer breathes and keeps the player dry and comfortable. The Thermal-Tech second layer blocks wind and balances the body's temperature as it breathes. The Outer-Tech featherweight fabrication used in the outer layer protects against rain and wind. The layers of AWS garments are said to function together for an active performance fit to offer a complete performance system for all climates around the world.

NikeiD.com wins silver in Industrial Design Excellence Awards

27 June 2005

NikeiD.com won a silver award in the Digital Media category at the 25th Annual Industrial Design Excellence Awards (IDEA) design competition. Co-sponsored by BusinessWeek and the Industrial Designers' Society of America (IDSA), the competition honoured NikeiD.com, which was re-launched in March 2005.
NikeiD.com is a website that allows consumers to custom-design and personalise Nike footwear and gear online, so that they can create the goods they want.

A jury of 17 designers and critics judged the 1,380 total entries, based on the five criteria of industrial design excellence: design innovation, benefit to the user, benefit to the client/business, ecological responsibility, and appropriate aesthetics and appeal. Thirty-eight entries were awarded the coveted Gold award, while 59 entries received Silver awards and 51 won Bronze awards.

Everlast to introduce line of sports bags

27 June 2005

US headquartered manufacturer of sporting goods and apparel Everlast Worldwide Inc. has announced a licensing agreement with New York City-based Sports Accessories Group, LLC for the production and marketing of a new line of Everlast men's, children's and unisex bags, including backpacks, sports bags, duffel bags, luggage, and roll bags.

The line, which is expected to be launched this autumn, will be sold through sporting goods retailers and department stores throughout the USA.
George Q Horowitz, chairman and CEO of Everlast Worldwide Inc., said, "Bags represent a natural extension for the

Everlast brand and complement our existing product offerings."

Study confirms four out of five preschoolers are wearing badly fitting shoes

27 June 2005

Results released in June of 2005 from a study conducted by the Glasgow Caledonian University has revealed that 83% of preschoolers are wearing shoes that are too small, despite the risk of serious, long-term damage associated with ill-fitting shoes.

Consultant Paediatric Podiatrist and lecturer at the university Gordon Watt said, "Many parents grossly underestimate the importance of looking after their child's feet while they are growing.

"Unlike adult feet, children's feet grow. The study showed that children's feet were at serious risk because they were contained in an environment that restricted their growing feet. Children are born with relatively soft and flexible cartilage which gradually converts to bone with age. As they are growing, their feet are vulnerable to injury and deformity due to ill-fitting footwear."

Preschoolians, maker of shoes for children birth to five years of age, has long recognised and agreed that tight shoes are the number one issue with children's footwear.

Jeffrey Silverman, Founder and CEO of Preschoolians and shoe inventor, says "Unfortunately tight shoes are a 'silent' cause of feet problems. Young children cannot tell us that their shoes are too tight and the age-old method of pressing on toes does not work. Preschoolers curl their toes when their toes are pressed on making it seem that shoes are larger than they are."

Two-thirds of American adults have problems with their feet by the time they reach middle age. According to the US Government, 95% of these problems are caused by tight shoes during the preschool years. Preschoolians has addressed this problem by inventing Visu-Fit, a clear panel on the bottom of its shoes, which allows a parent to see exactly how shoes fit. The company will also send a parent an e-mail 13 weeks after purchase to remind the parent to check the size and make sure their child's feet are safe.

China opposes EU charges on Chinese footwear

27 June 2005

China has warned that there could be trade friction if the European Union decides to go ahead with an anti-dumping enquiry on imported Chinese shoes. China's Ministry of Commerce urged the EU to reconsider launching an investigation as it says that there is no case for such action and that it could lead to tension.

The EU has announced that it will open an official investigation into the imports of particular types of Chinese shoes at the end of June, to establish whether there is a case for anti-dumping measures to be taken.

The EU decided to launch a probe into Chinese footwear imports following the release of statistics showing that imports of certain shoe types had increased by as much as 700% since the ending of WTO quotas on January 1. China claims that these statistics are inaccurate and that any moves to impose anti-dumping measures would contradict the free trade agreements that are in place.

Brazil implements safeguards against Chinese imports

27 June 2005

The Brazilian Ministry of Development, through CAMEX (the Chamber of Foreign Trade) has approved the implementation of safeguards against imports from China. The measures will allow Brazilian economic sectors that feel threatened by such imports to ask for safeguards in the form of quotas or import taxes to be imposed.
Until now, Brazil has had no specific protection mechanisms against imports from China as the country's general safeguards

for specific products were not applicable to a single country. However, Brazil will now be able to impose barriers on Chinese products alone on any products that are likely to jeopardise the performance of the domestic industry in that sector.

The Ministry announced that any import limits will be regulated by two decrees, one just for textiles and valid until 2008, and another one covering all other products and valid till 2013.

However, safeguards will not be automatic and affected industrial sectors must file a claim with the Department of Commercial Protection before limit safeguards can be imposed, a process that could take between two and eight months. “The industrial sectors will have to prove that they are being affected by the increase in imports from China," said Ivan Ramalho, Foreign Trade Secretary.

Between January and April 2005 overall imports from China grew 53% compared with the same period in 2004. The largest growth was seen in textile goods (+148%) and footwear (+180%).

“The footwear industry will have to file a claim as soon as possible because the damage is already serious enough," said Élcio Jacometti, president of Abicalçados - Brazilian Association of Footwear Manufacturers.

Himaco ISO 9001 certified

27 June 2005

Himaco Hidráulicos e Máquinas Indústria e Comércio, of Novo Hamburgo, Brazil has been ISO 9001 certified. Founded 36 years ago, Himaco is one of Latin America's longest established manufacturers of injection moulding machines. Its machines are used in the footwear, car, electronics and toy industries.

According to Enore Bondan, director and president of the company, industrial and commercial process standardisation and the recent ISO 9001 certification will ensure recognition of the Himaco brand in both the Brazilian and international markets. He also added that it has led to a significant increase in productivity as well as a considerable cost and waste reduction.

Nike reports record FY performance

27 June 2005

Nike, Inc. has reported record financial results for the 2005 fiscal year, ended May 31, 2005. Revenues increased 12% to $13.7 billion, compared with $12.3 billion in fiscal year 2004. Full year net income was up 28% to $1.2 billion.

Fourth quarter revenues also increased, recording 7% growth to reach $3.7 billion versus $3.5 billion for the same period last year. Fourth quarter net income rose 15% to $349.5 million compared with US$305 million for the same period in the prior year.

Commenting on the company's results, president and CEO of Nike, William D Perez, said, "Fiscal 2005 was a great year. The strength of the Nike brand around the world, the breadth of our Nike, Inc. portfolio, and the quality of our management team contributed to another year of consistent, profitable growth for our shareholders. The Nike brand is exceptionally strong, driving full-year revenue gains across all regions and product lines, while Converse and Cole Haan led the growth in our portfolio of other businesses. Today's record earnings were driven by healthy revenue growth and the highest gross margin in the company's history."

The company also reported forward orders for athletic footwear and apparel, scheduled for delivery from June through November 2005, totalling $6.3 billion, 9.5% higher than for the same period last year.

Mark Held appointed chairman of OIA in UK

27 June 2005

The OIA Council has elected Mark Held as chairman of the Outdoor Industry Association. Mr Held, who has worked within the outdoor trade for many years, is the

Director of the European Outdoor Group and has a great deal of experience and knowledge.

Roger Southcott of the OIA commented, "The OIA certainly faces some challenges in the coming months and years and having Mark at the helm will ensure that we are proactive and responsive. Mark is certainly not a retiring wall-flower and his positive, dynamic approach will be refreshing and, I'm sure, demanding."

We recently ran this news item and incorrectly stated that he had been elected to the Outdoor Industry Association, when in fact Mr Held has been appointed to the position at the UK organisation, OIA. We apologise for any misunderstanding this may have caused.